

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders comprising:

~~The nail holder strip according to claim 2,~~

a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;

a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;

a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on said nail, wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder strip; and

a stiffening stem positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so as to provide additional rigidity to the strip;

wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said nail holder strip.

4. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 32, wherein said passage is semi-circular.

5. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 32, wherein said protrusion includes a flat surface.

6. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 34, wherein said stiffening stem includes a plurality of stiffening stems positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base.

7. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of stiffening stems are on opposite sides of said passage.

8. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 6, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

9. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 8, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base, and said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

10. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 6, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

11. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim ~~31~~, wherein said passage includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein said first portion and said second portion have different diameters.

12. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim ~~31~~, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

13. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 12, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

14. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim ~~31~~, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders.

15. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 14, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to said support base.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders, The nail holder strip according to claim 16, comprising:

a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;

a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;

a stiffening stem positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so as to provide additional rigidity to the strip; and

a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on said nail, wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder strip;

wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said nail holder strip.

18. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 17~~16~~, wherein said passage is semi-circular.

19. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 17~~16~~, wherein said protrusion includes a flat surface.

20. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 17~~16~~, wherein said stiffening stem includes a plurality of stiffening stems positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base.

21. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of stiffening stems are on opposite sides of said passage.

22. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 20, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

23. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 22, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base, and said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

24. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 20, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

25. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 17~~16~~, wherein said passage includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein said first portion and said second portion have different diameters.

26. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 17~~16~~, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

27. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 26, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

28. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 17~~16~~, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders.

29. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 28, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to said support base.

30. (original) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders comprising,  
a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;  
a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;  
a stiffening stem positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so  
as to provide additional rigidity to the strip;  
a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on  
said nail;  
wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail  
holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said  
passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder  
strip; and  
wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said  
nail holder strip.

31-32. (canceled).

33. (currently amended) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders, The nail holder strip according to claim 32, comprising:  
a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;  
a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;  
a plurality of stiffening stems positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so as to provide additional rigidity to the strip;  
a brace adjacent to said support base, and at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems; and  
a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on said nail, wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said

passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder strip;

wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said nail holder strip.

34. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3332, wherein said passage is semi-circular.

35. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3332, wherein said protrusion includes a flat surface.

36. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3334, wherein said plurality of stiffening stems are on opposite sides of said passage.

37. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3334, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base, and said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

38. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3334, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

39. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3334, wherein said passage includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein said first portion and said second portion have different diameters.

40. (currently amended) The nail holder strip according to claim 3334, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders.

41. (original) The nail holder strip according to claim 40, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to said support base.

42. (canceled)

43. (new) A nail holder, comprising:

a support base forming a passage for surrounding the shank of a nail and the base having an upper surface and lower surface with the passage extending therebetween;

a first stiffening stem cantilevered from the lower surface; and

a second stiffening stem cantilevered from the lower surface, the second stiffening stem being independent of the first stiffening stem.

44. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 43, wherein each of the stems include a proximal end integrally formed with the support base and located at the lower surface thereof, a distal end, and a longitudinally extending intermediate portion extending between the proximal and distal ends,

wherein the nail holder is devoid of material extending between the first and second intermediate portions.

45. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 44, wherein the nail holder is devoid of material extending between the first and second distal ends.

46. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 43, wherein each of the intermediate portions of the first and second stems are substantially rectangular in shape.

47. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 43, wherein the support base has a width, and a thickness as defined by the distance between the upper and lower surfaces,

wherein each of the stems has a length defined by the distance between the lower surface and the respective distal end of the stem,

wherein the space between the stems is defined by a left, longitudinally extending inner surface of the first stem, and a right, longitudinally extending inner surface of the second stem, wherein the inner surfaces extend from the lower surface.

48. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 47, wherein each of the first and second stems have respective outer first and second surfaces extending downwardly from the lower surface.

49. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 48, wherein the distance between the first and second outer surfaces is approximately equal to the width of the support base.

50. (new) The nail holder strip of claim 43, wherein the support base is substantially cylindrical in shape.